Average expenditure on transportation of undertrials and convicted prisoners

†1897. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are spending an average of Rs. 1.300 annually on the undertrials and convicted prisoners in Jails for producing them before courts and to take them back to prisons in the country:

(b) if not, the details in this regard; and

(c) the details of the cases under which the accused were in Jails till end of March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) No data regarding the exact expenditure incurred on the transportation of the undertrials and convicted prisoners is maintained either in the Department of Justice or in the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs. However as per the report of XI Finance Commission, on an average an amount of Rs. 20,075/- is incurred on each undertrial per annum covering diet, medicine, clothing, with extra provision for sanitation and water, correctional programmes and transportation to the courts and back.

(c) No such information is maintained in this Department.

Inordinate delay in filling the vacancies of Judges

1898. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether expressing serious concern over the inordinate delay in filling vacancies for the posts of Judges and the resultant arrears of 36.40 lakh cases, Government have once again written to the Chief Justices of the High Courts. Chief Ministers of States and the Governors to send proposals for filling the vacancies in the High Courts;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is keen to evolve a mechanism by which vacancies of Judges are filled as and when they arise; and

(c) if so, the other steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir, the Chief justices of the High Courts have been requested to make recommendations for filling up existing vacancies as also the vacancies arising till the end of the March, 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission, which would make recommendations for appointment of Judges/Chief Justices of High Courts and the Supreme Court, as also draw up a Code of Ethics for Judges.

Priority in disposal of Human Rights cases

1899. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked State Governments to expedite the setting up of fast track courts in accordance with directions of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also asked State Government to expedite the disposal of Human Rights cases on priority; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases pending in various courts and by when such cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lai *Vs.* Union of India & Others, the Supreme Court has given direction that the High Courts and the State Governments shall ensure that there exists no vacancy in the Fast Track Courts and necessary steps in that regard shall be taken within three months from the date of Judgement. The Central Government has also requested the State Governments and